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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 KINGSTON 7643
E.O. 12065: GDS 10/16/86 (HAVERKAMP, R.) OR-M
TAGS/ PINT, JM
SUBJECT: CANDIDATES NOMINATED IN ALL CONSTITUENCIES
1. (C) SUMMARY. JAMAICA COMPLETED RELATIVELY SMOOTHLY THE IMPORTANT ELECTORAL STEP OF NOMINATION DAY ON OCTOBER 14. BOTH PARTIES NOMINATED CANDIDATES IN ALL SIXTY CONSTITUENCIES AND SEVEN INDEPENDENTS THREW THEIR HATS INTO THE RING. IN EXPECTATION OF VIOLENCE, MOST RESIDENTS OF THE CORPORATE AREA STAYED HOME AND SCHOOLS AND BUSINESSES CLOSED EARLY. NOMINATION DAY PROCEEDED PEACEFULLY IN MOST RURAL AREAS. ELEVEN JAMAICANS WERE KILLED BY GUNMEN DURING THE DAY, MOSTLY IN THE CORPORATE AREA. THE KILLING OF PNP CANDIDATE ROY MCGANN (INGSTON 7598 AND 7604) SHOCKED THE COUNTRY AND STIMULATED MANY STATEMENTS OF CONCERN CONDEMNING POLITICAL VIOLENCE. PRIME MINISTER MANLEY AND OPPOSITION LEADER EDWARD SEAGA AGAIN CALLED ON THEIR CUPPORTERS TO REMAIN CALM DURING THE ELCTION PERIOD. A LARGE JLP NOMINATION EVE RALLY IN KINGSTON WAS HELD PEACEFULLY, AND THE PNP RESCHEDULED A MAJOR RALLY IN DOWNTOWN KINGSTON PLANNED FOR

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THE EVENING OF NOMINATION DAY. END SUMMARY.
2. (C) NOMINATION DAY 1980 PASSED WITH EACH OF THE TWO MAJOR PARTIES SUCCESSFULLY NOMINATING CANDIDATES IN ALL SIXTY CONSTITUENCIES. THERE WERE NO LAST-MINUTE SUBSTITUTIONS OF CANDIDATES AS WE SUSPECTED MIGHT OCCUR IN A SMALL NUMBER OF INSTANCES, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE PNP'S REPLACEMENT FORTHE MURDERED ROY MCGANN. SEVEN INDIVIDUALS EMERGED AS INDEPENDENT CANDIDATES INTHREE CORPORATE AREAS AND THREE RURAL CONSTITUENCIES. GIVEN THE PREDOMINANCE OF THE TWO MAJOR PARTIES, NONE OF THE INDEPENDENTS STAND A CHANCE OF WINNING. WE DO NOT KNOW IF ANY OF THEM WERE PLANTED AS SPOTTERS.
3. (C) NOMINATION DAY IS BOTH PROCEDURALLY AND PSYCHOLOGI-

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CALLY AN IMPORTANT EVENT IN JAMAICA. A CANDIDATE MUST GET ON THE BALLOT DURING A TWO-HOUR PERIOD. WITH THE CANDIDATE'S NOMINATION, THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN OFFICIALLY BEGINS. THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR TAKING NOMINATIONS ON THE APPOINTED DAY FALLS ON THE CONSTITUENCY'S RETURNING OFFICER, WHO IS SELECTED BY THE BIPARTISAN ELECTORAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE. THE RETURNING OFFICER CHOOSES A PUBLIC BUILDING IN THE CONSTITUENCY FOR THE NOMINATION PROCEDURE. PRACTICE DICTATES THAT THIS BUILDING BE SELECTED IN CONSULTATION WITH THE TWO MAJOR PARTIES AND HAVE THE APPROVAL OF BOTH. SCHOOLS AND COURT HOUSES ARE THE USUAL VENUE FOR THE NOMINATION EXERCISE. THE RETURNING OFFICER ALSO HAS THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR ENSURING THAT THE PUBLIC HAS ADEQUATE NOTICE OF THE DATE AND PLACE OF THE NOMINATION.

4. (C) BETWEEN NOON AND TWO P.M. ON THE DESIGNATED DAY, THE CONSTITUENCY'S RETURNING OFFICER AND THE ELECTION

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CLERK, WHO ALSO IS SELECTED BY THE BIAPRTISAN ELECTOAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE, MUST BE AT THE SELECTED LOCATION TO ACCEPT ALL NOMINATIONS OF CANDIDATES. EACH CANDIDATE MUST BE NOMINATED BY A LEAST TEN QUALIFIED VOTERS FROM THE CONSTITUENCY, HE MUST COSENT TO HIS NOMINATION, AND HE MUST MAKE A DEPOSIT OF J$100. AS A RESULT OF A DISTURBANCE IN THE RECENT PAST WHICH APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN PLANNED TO KEEP A CERTAIN INDIVIDUAL FROM BEING NOMINATED OR TO INVALIDATE THE NOMINATION PROCEDURE, RETURNING OFFICERS NOW HAVE THE POWER TO ADJOURN THE NOMINATION PROCEDURES UNTIL THE NEXT DAY IN THE EVENT OF VIOLENCE. THERE WERE NO INSTANCES YESTERDAY IN WHICH RETURNING OFFICERS FELT IT NECESSARY TO UTILIZE THIS NEW AUTHORITY.

5. (C) THE DEATH OF PNP CANDIDATE ROY MCGANN IN EARLY HOURS OF OCTOBER 14 MARKED A TRAGIC START TO NOMINATION DAY 1980. WHILE REPORTS CONFLICT ON THE DETAILS OF MCGANN'S DEATH, MOST ACCOUNTS AGREE THAT HE PROBABLY WAS SHOT BY THE POLICE FURING AN ALTERCATION BETWEEN PNP AND JLP SUPPORTERS IN GORDON TWON SQUARE. IN THE WAKE OF AN EARLY REPORT ON THE GOVERNMENT-OWNED JAMAICA BROADCASTING CORPORATION (JBC) RADI THAT MCGANN HAD BEEN SHOT BY JLP SUPPORTERS, OPPOSITION LEADER EDWARD SEAGA CALLED FOR A FULL INVESTIGATION OF TE INCIDENT AND DEMANDED AN APOLOGY FROM THE STATION. PRIMIN MANELY IN HIS INITIAL PUBLIC STATEMENT CALLED ON ALL TO REMAIN CALM AND FOR ALL WITNESSES TO COOPERATE IN THE INVESTIGATION. BY LATE MORNING, THE PNP FXECUTIVE COUNCIL HAD DECIDED ON PERVY STULTZ, A LEFTIST KINGSTON-ST. ANDREW CORPORATION (KSAC) COUNCILLOR AS MCGANN'S REPLACEMENT AS THE CANDIDATE IN THE EAST RURAL ST. ANDREW CONSTITUENCY.

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STULTZ WAS QUOTED YESTERDAY AS STATING THAT THE [redacted]
CONSTITUENCY HAS BEEN THE SCENE OF SEVERE VIOLENCE BY
"MERCENARIES AND TERRORISTS OF THE JLP."
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6. (U) ON THE EVE OF NOMINATION DAY, BOTH PARTY LEADERS
ISSUED STATEMENTS CALLING ON THEIR SUPPORTERS TO REMAIN
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P R 161330Z OCT 80
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AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 KINGSTON 7643
ALM THROUGHOUT THE ELECTION PERIOD. MANLEY CALLED ON ALL JAMAICANS TO RESPECT THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS AND ASKED THE SECURITY FORCES TO BE ESPECIALLY ALERT ON NOMINATION DAY. SEAGA APPEALED FOR GENERAL CALM BUT TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO CALL FOR ADDITIONAL SECURITY FORCE COMMAND POST IN SEVERAL AREAS WHERE THE JLP HAD RECENTLY EXPERIENCED PROBLEMS AND REQUESTED THE GOVERNMENT TO MAKE MORE VEHCILES AVAILABLE TO THE POLICE AND MILITARY.
7. (U) AFTER THE SHOCK OF THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE THE DEATH OF MCGANN THE ISLAND AND ESPECIALLY THE CORPORATE AREA WERE TENSE. TRAFFIC WAS VEY LIGHT DURING THE NORMAL RUSH HOUR PERIOD, AS MANY DECIDED TO STAY HOME FOR THE DAY. MOST BUSINESSES AND SCHOOLS CLOSED EARLY, AND THE STREETS WERE IN EFFECT TURNED OVER TO POLITICAL ACTIVISTS. BY MID AFTERNOON, TRAFFIC WAS LIGHTER THAN ON A SUNDAY MONRING BUS DRIVERS DIDN'T TURN UP FOR WORK AND GASOLINE TRUCK DRIVERS REFUSED TO MAKE DELIVERIES CITING THE POSSIBILITY OF ENCOUNTERING VIOLENCE.
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8. (C) THERE WERE SCATTED VIOLENCE INCIDENTS THROUGHOUT THE DAY, ESPECIALLY IN THE CORPORATE AREA. MANLEY AND SEAGA WERE NOMINATED WITHOUT INCIDENT IN THEIR KINGSTON CONSTITUENCIES SHORTLY AFTER NOON. ELEVEN PEOPLE INCLUDING A POLICEMAN WERE KILLED ACROSS THE ISLAND BETWEEN LATE MONDAY NIGHT AND TUESDAY SEVEN OF THESE WERE IN THE KINGSTON ST ANDREW. A S UPPORTER CLIVE DOBSON THE PNP CANDIATED FOR WEST CENTRAL ST JAMES, WAS KILLED IN POLITICAL VIOLENCE. A POLICEMAN WAS SHOT DEAD IN CLARENDON AND HIS REVOLVER STOLEN AND A POLICE STATION IN KINGSTON WAS FIRED ON. A GROUP OF PNP SUPPORTERS IN KINGSTON BEAT AND STABBED A MAN ACCUSED OF BEING "LABORITE" AND SET HIS BODY ON FIRE. A GROUP OF PNP SUPPORTERS BLOCKED A ROAD IN KINGSTON DRAGGED A

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MAN OFF THE BUS ACCUSED HIM OF BEING A JLP SUPPORTER AND BEAT HIM TO DEATH. A GROUP OF APPROXIMATELY TWENTY UNIDENTIFIED GUNMEN WENT ON A REMPAGE IN CENTRAL KINGSTON AT 2:30 P.M. KILLING A WOMAN IN A BAR. AN UNIDENTIFIED MAN WAS KILLED IN A POLITICAL CLASH IN THE ST CATHERINE SUBURBS. A GROUP REPORTEDLY TRIED TO PUT OIL ON THE ROAD LEADING TO THE GORDON TOWN COURT HOUSE AS PRIMIN MANLEY PARTY APPROACHED BUT WERE DRIVEN OFF BY PNP SUPPORTERS. THE OFFICE OF JLP MP DOUGLAS VAZ WAS ATTACKED.

9. (U) ROMAN CATHOLIC ARCHBISHOP SAMUEL CARTER. PRESIDENT OF THE JAMAICA COUNCIL OF CHURCHES(JCC) APPEALED FOR CALM AND STRONGLY CONDEMNED POLICE VIOLENCE AND THE JCC ISSUED A STATEMENT ASKING CANDIDATES TO KEEP THEIR PUBLIC MEETINGS AND FUNCITIONS TO A MINIMUM.

10. (C) THE OPPOSITION PARTY HELD A LARGE AND PEACEFUL RALLY ON THE EVE OF NOMINATION DAY AT HALF WAY TREE.

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A PUPULAR CROSSROADS AREA IN THE CORPORATE AREA. THE JBC ACCORDED FULL COVERAGE TO THE RALLY IN ITS OCTOBER 14 EVENING NEWS BROADCAS HIGHLIGHTING THREATNING STATEMENS BY SEVERAL JLP CANDIDATES WHOCH SOUGHT TO LEAVERTHE VIEWER WITH THE IMPRESSION OF BEING CONNECTED TO THE MCGANN INCIDENT LATER THAT NIGHT. A LARGE PNP RALLY IN DOOWTOWN KINGSTON THE EVENING OF NOMINATION DAY WAS CANCELLED BECAUSE OF MCGANNS DEATH AND RESCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER 25. WE SUSPECT THE WALK OFF OF BUS DRIVERS MAY ALSO HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THE CANCELLATION.

11. (C) COMMENT JAMAIAN WILL LONG REMEMBER NOMINATION DAY 1980 FOR THE UNPRECEDENTED DEATH OF A CANDIDATE FOR PARLIAMENT (ALTHOUGH AT LEAST THREE CANDIDATES IN 1976 WERE INJURED) DESPITE FEARS THAT VIOLENCE WOULD DISRUPT THE NOMINATION PROCEEDINGS, THE COUNTRY SAW CANDIDATES OF BOTH PARTIES SUCCESSFULLY NOMINATED IN ALL CONSTITUENCIES. ANTICIPATE LEVELS OF VIOLENCE DID NOT OCCUR. AT THE SAME TIME, THE POLICIAL ATMOSPHERE HAS HEATED UP CONSIDERABLY SINCE THE OCTOBER 5 ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE ELECTION DAY, AND SUPPORTERS OF BOTH PARTUES ARE ENGAGING IN ACTS OF VIIOLENCE. IT IS VIRTUALLY IMPOSSIBLE TO SAY WHICH PARTY IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE MAJORITY OF THE INCIDENTS.

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